

LIVING DIVERSITY **SHAPING EUROPE**



FUEN

Flensburg / Flensburg · Berlin · Brussel / Bruxelles
www.fuen.org

Europe's best-kept secret

THE AUTOCHTHONOUS COMMUNITIES – OLD-ESTABLISHED MINORITIES AND LANGUAGES

Facts and diversity at a glance.

In Europe there are
more than 400 minority
communities comprising
over 100 million people.

This means that almost
1 in 7 Europeans belong
to an autochthonous
minority and/or speaks
a regional or minority
language.



Something worth considering MINORITY POLITICS IS PEACE POLITICS

FUEN is Europe.

Europe is in motion, and that in many respects. Europe is the place people long to be, a safe haven and a melting pot. Europe is in crisis and reveals a fragile architecture. But the fact is that Europe reinvents itself and is always having to rediscover itself. And we are right in the middle of it, in almost every country in Europe.

We are the traditional minorities and ethnic groups. We are a product of history, the result of historic events and the redrawing of borders. We are also the small peoples and stateless nations. We have never established a state of our own but live on the territory of another state, and yet we make an irreplaceable contribution to European heritage.

We are a diverse group that has created a community of solidarity under the umbrella of FUEN. For over 65 years FUEN has represented the interests of the minorities, of which there are over four hundred in all of Europe. Almost a hundred of these are members. Such a large number of people should attract a lot of attention, but they are politically under-represented and under-resourced.

And it is this that FUEN wants to change. To this end we are using the opportunities offered in 2016 by the FUEN Congress in the European Capital of Culture Wrocław, the German OSCE Chairmanship with its focus of national minorities, and especially the third European Football Championship of the Minorities in South Tyrol. We have a lot to offer, and we have a lot of plans.



FUEN at a glance

ADVOCATE AND UMBRELLA ORGANISATION

FUEN represents the interests of the European minorities.

FUEN is the most important advocate and the biggest umbrella organisation of the autochthonous, national minorities in Europe. Under its umbrella it unites over 90 member organisations in 32 European countries, with new members joining every year.

FUEN sees itself as a mutual support community that represents the interests of the European minorities at regional, national, and particularly European level. It maintains a large network of policy makers, scientific institutes, cultural and educational institutions, youth organisations, media and other associates.

FUEN works for the preservation and promotion of the identity, language, culture, rights and traditions of the

European minorities. It is the mouthpiece of the minorities in dealing with international organisations, especially the European Union, the Council of Europe, the United Nations and the OSCE.

Over the last two years, FUEN has increased its presence, and now has three offices in Flensburg, Berlin and Brussels.

FUEN is headed by a seven-person executive board, led by the president. Up to May 2016 the office of president was held by Hans Heinrich Hansen, a member of the German minority in Danish North Schleswig. He has been succeeded by Lorant Vincze from the Hungarian minority in Romania.



Flensburg / Flensburg



Bundeshaus Berlin



Hanse-Office Brussel / Bruxelles

Political Participation

REPRESENTATION AND DIALOGUE ON EQUAL FOOTING

FUEN is the advocate of minority interests – particularly at European level

In close cooperation with international organisations, states and regions, FUEN endeavours to highlight minority issues in Europe's multi-level political system. Drawing on its many years of experience and its large network, FUEN encourages the relevant stakeholders to maintain a sustainable minority policy.

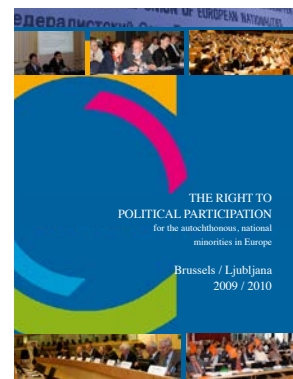
At European level FUEN's goals include the establishment of a political representation at the European Parliament, comparable with the contact and advisory bodies at nation state level.

FUEN has participatory status at the Council of Europe and consultative status at the United Nations.

FUEN demands that the Council of Europe's human rights convention, the recommendations of the OSCE

and the UN conventions and political instruments are taken seriously and updated to meet contemporary needs.

Together with Members of the European Parliament, FUEN established the European Dialogue Forum. Its objective is to establish a dialogue and contact body to deal with the interests of the minorities directly at the European Parliament and a stronger, constructive participation in social change in Europe



Fundamental Rights

MINORITY RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS

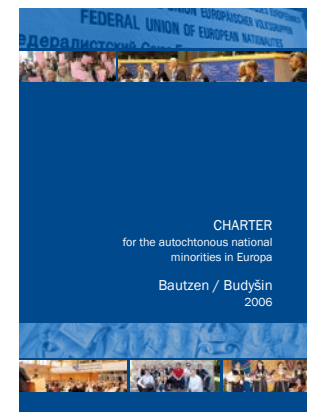
At home in our region, strong in Europe.

FUEN was founded in Paris in 1949, the same year as the Council of Europe. The core idea was to create a federally based Europe of the Regions as an instrument for guaranteeing peace. The experiences of two World Wars should lead to a reorganisation of Europe as one of regions.

In its charter, FUEN affirms its identity and its declared belief in the peaceful coexistence of all peoples. The Programmatic Declaration of 2013 creates the framework for the necessary legal and support for minorities from the Council of Europe and the European Union.

Europe has a self-defined responsibility for the minorities and for linguistic and cultural diversity. This has entered a new dimension with the Treaty of Lisbon and the European Union Charter of Fundamental Rights. The legal commitments undertaken must also be reflected in more tangible action with regard to the protection and support for the minorities.

A bundle of concrete proposals are already on the table in the shape of the European citizens' initiative Minority SafePack (Page 8).



European Citizens' Initiative

ONE MILLION SIGNATURES FOR MINORITY ISSUES

When will the European Court of Justice reach a decision?

The members of FUEN started a European citizens' initiative that is the most significant initiative started by the European minorities in decades. Launched with a great deal of euphoria and political support, the project is currently being reviewed by the European Court of Justice.

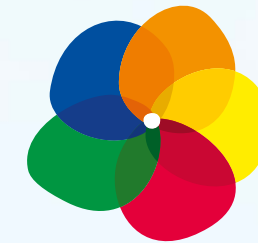
The Minority SafePack, carefully compiled by a team of experts, contains several measures and specific legal instruments for the support and protection of the European minorities and regional and minority languages.

In an act of solidarity without precedent, the minorities wanted to collect a million signatures for the preservation of diversity in Europe. Together it should be possible to show the policymakers in Brussels and the countries of Europe that there are many who want to be involved in shaping the future and the decisions this entails.

The initiative, submitted by a high-ranking committee of citizens, was however rejected by the European Commission in September 2013 on the grounds that it was outside the European Commission's remit.

The Minority SafePack demonstrates the limits of the European Citizens' Initiative as a new means of direct democracy as well as the complicated issue of who is responsible for minority issues.

The judgement of the European Court of Justice is awaited with great anticipation at the end of 2016. The corresponding hearing is to be held in Luxemburg in mid-2016.



MINORITY SAFEPACK INITIATIVE

DU BIST NICHT ALLEIN. EINE MILLION
UNTERSCHRIFTEN FÜR DIE VIELFALT EUROPAS

YOU ARE NOT ALONE.

European Network

FUEN AS A COMMUNITY OF SOLIDARITY

The largest umbrella organisation for European minorities is constantly growing.

FUEN maintains a large network and contacts to the European minorities and their organisations, to policy-makers, scientific institutes, youth organisations, media, cultural and educational institutions and other partners. It supports such projects as the joint project of the European minority theatres and the creation of a European museum network.

FUEN sees itself as a community based on solidarity. The situation, needs and challenges faced by the individual minorities in Europe are very varied. There are exemplary models of protection and support for minorities, but there are also states that still deny the existence of their autochthonous minorities. The European minorities demand more voice and influence in the regions, the nation states and at European level.

On the Internet:
Working Group of German Minorities
www.agdm.fuen.org
Working Group of Turkic Minorities
tag.fuen.org

In collaboration with its members, FUEN stages many events with a European dimension. Worthy of particular mention here are the EUROPEADA – the European Football Championship of the Minorities, which is being held for the third time in 2016 – and the annual meeting of the Slavic, Turkic and German minorities.



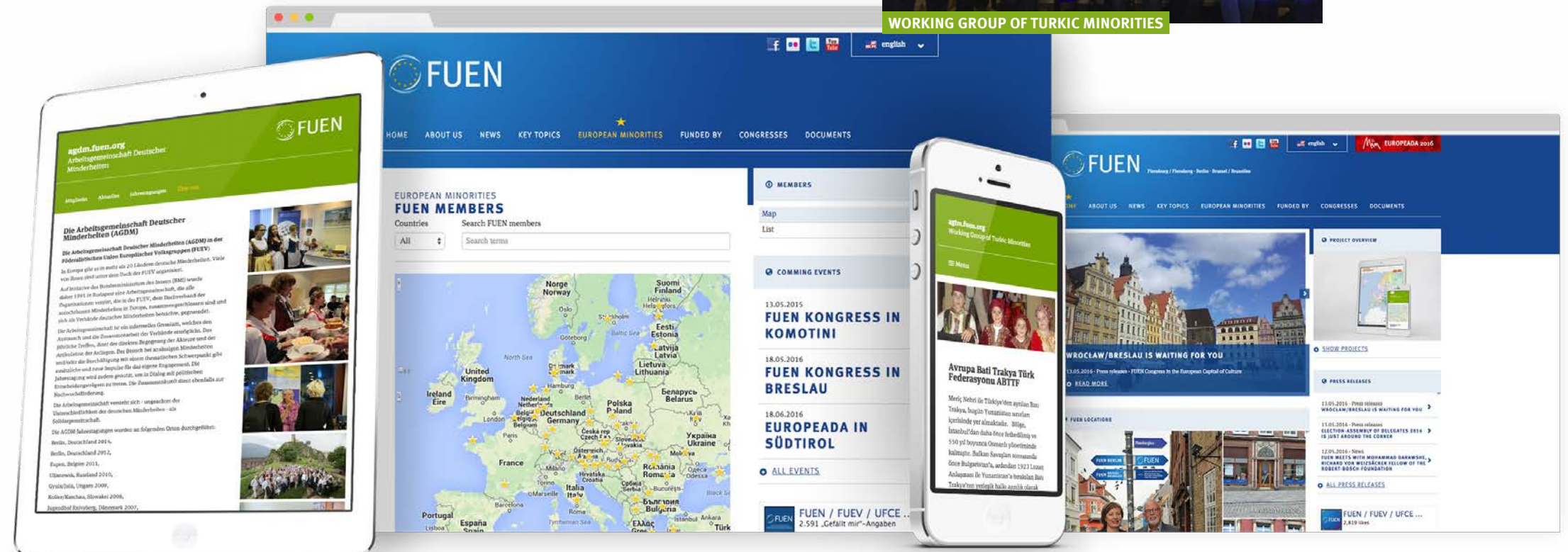
WORKING GROUP OF GERMAN MINORITIES



WORKING GROUP OF SLAVIC MINORITIES



WORKING GROUP OF TURKIC MINORITIES





Congress 2014

7 – 11 Mai Germany / Denmark
Nordschleswig & Sydslesvig

Congress 2012

16 – 20 May Russia
Москва / Moscow



Congress 2013

19 – 23 June Italy
Brixen, South Tyrol

Congress 2017

Kolozsvár / Cluj-Napoca / Klausenburg

Congress 2015

13 – 17 May Greece
Komotini / Κομοτηνή / Gümülcine Western Thrace

European Network FUEN CONGRESS

The largest annual meeting of the European Minorities.

Every year FUEN hosts the congress of European minorities in different European capitals and regions. The congress is usually attended by around 250 representatives of the minorities, where they critically discuss the situation of the minorities in a European context.

In May 2014 the anniversary congress was held in the German-Danish border country where the discussions focussed on Ukraine and the added value embodied by the minorities.

The annual congress in May 2015 was hosted in Komotini, Greece, by three Western Thrace Turk organisations.

The 2016 FUEN Congress was held in the European Capital of Culture Wrocław in cooperation with the German minority in Poland.

The OSCE high commissioner Astrid Thors opened the congress with a speech, and the minorities in Poland gave a presentation of their current situation, while the debate focused on the future of Europe and the minorities in times of crisis. FUEN presented a successful and positive report and the assembly of delegates elected a new executive board.

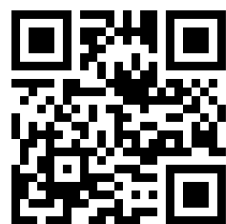


LANGUAGE DIVERSITY

Map of Minorities & the Minority & Regional & Languages in Europe

The folding map shows the linguistic and cultural diversity of our continent. It shows the minorities that live, and the languages spoken, in every country in Europe. This interactive map enables you to visualise the diversity in many different ways.

Click on
map.language-diversity.eu
and experience our interactive map and a lot more interesting information.



Linguistic Diversity

CREATIVE SUPPORT WITH POTENTIAL

“It’s never too late ...”: Attractive language promotion and planning with Language Diversity.

Multilingualism and linguistic diversity are fundamental European values. This is enshrined in Article 22 of the European Charter of Fundamental Human Rights, “The Union shall respect cultural, religious and linguistic diversity.” The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages guarantees their protection.

The EUROMOSAIC study quantifies the critical threshold for the survival of a language at 300,000 speakers.

One of the largest stateless languages is Catalan, with around six million speakers. While the Welsh, Basques, West Frisians, Bretons and some of the Russian peoples, like the Bashkirs and the Chuvash, are above the critical language threshold, the great majority of regional and minority languages, such as Ladin, Romansch, Upper and Lower Sorbian, North Frisian and Kashubian are below the threshold.

The preservation and promotion of their own language within the scope of European multilingualism is extremely important for every minority. This requires attractive language development, long-term language planning and reliable language policy.

FUEN puts its trust in joint initiatives for language policy and promotion, and in networking with other stakeholders, such as the Network to Promote Linguistic Diversity (NPLD).

FUEN promotes creative linguistic diversity and multilingualism through its Language Diversity project and Language Diversity Map. “It’s never too late ...” is not just a campaign motto but also active encouragement.



Forum of the European Minorities

MAKE USE OF THE ADDED VALUE OF MINORITIES

House of Minorities – the point of contact for minority issues in Europe.

The minorities in Europe – which comprise 100 million Europeans in all – want to help shape the future of the continent and contribute to the strengthening of European civil society.

The minorities of Europe represent a potential that is still very much unrecognised, and their knowledge and experience are not made enough use of. Although their contribution to linguistic and cultural diversity is clearly visible, a fact that is often overlooked is that minorities also possess skills that can contribute to economic and regional development.

In the shape of the House of Minorities, FUEN and its partners in the German-Danish border region have

established a European information and documentation centre. Before this, there had not been a point of contact for minority issues in Europe. The office of the House of Minorities – the shop window of the ambitious project – was opened in Flensburg in 2014.

With the establishment of a Forum of the European Minorities that includes the European regions in which the minorities live, FUEN wants to strike out in a new direction that will emphasise the social and political importance of the minorities.



Kontor



Haus der Minderheiten
Mindretalletenes Hus
Hüs foon e manerhåide
I Kehr for mengi





Minorities Help Minorities

LEARNING FROM ONE ANOTHER

Specific projects as social added value.

Minorities can learn from other minorities and their experience can help others to improve their life conditions and make a valuable contribution to solving problems. Through dialogue and exchange of ideas and experiences, minorities also contribute to strengthening commitment to civil society. Members of minorities have been proven to possess a special social and intercultural expertise that qualifies them to act as mediators.

We would like to draw attention to one particular example: with its project “Solidarity with the Roma”, FUEN has been supporting Roma, many of whom live under inhumane conditions. As the largest umbrella organisation of the minorities in Europe, it can use the

experiences of its members to improve the inclusion of the Roma in all areas of public and political life. The idea is to show a new way for these ten to twelve million people with European citizenship to gain more acceptance and understanding.

This aspired solidarity between minorities is not just relevant with regard to the Roma population. It enhances the status of all minorities and how they are perceived by the majority population. If the solidarity of the minorities can contribute to solving a current problem then this is proof that minorities embody an added value for society as a whole.

Make use of the minorities' expertise

CONFLICT PREVENTION AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Minority politics is peace politics.

In the history of Europe, crises and conflicts are often associated with the coexistence of different peoples, and often also with minorities. Many of the over ninety FUEM member organisations have been and still are being affected by the most recent conflicts in Europe. FUEM promotes a peaceful coexistence in Europe, and demonstrates how in many European regions minorities have for decades been committed to this in a peaceful and future-oriented way. Minority politics is peace politics.

The active inclusion in crisis resolution is fully in line with the current activities of the OSCE, of which Germany has the chairmanship in 2016. One of the three priorities of the OSCE chairmanship, to which FUEM feels committed, is the subject of national minorities. For this it has drawn up its own action programme for 2016 that includes the Baltic States, the Balkans, Kazakhstan and Ukraine.

Following up on Germany's foreign minister Steinmeier statement that "we also want to use your expertise for our foreign policy", FUEM wants to bring in the experience and knowledge of the minorities in conflict resolution and prevention. FUEM works before conflicts break out and reinforces the minority communities in their engagement in the regions using European initiatives. We rely on dialogue and social participation.



EUROPEADA EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP OF THE AUTOCHTHONOUS MINORITIES

Football festival of the languages and cultures.

Sport and games bring people together – and attract attention.

After being hosted by the Romansh people of Grisons in 2008 and the Lusatian Sorbs in 2012, the EUROPEADA, the 2016 European football championship of the autochthonous, national minorities, was held from 18 to 26 June 2016 in South Tyrol. At the same time as EURO 2016 in France, twenty-four teams were competing for the title in the Puster and Val Badia/Gadertal valleys, an increase over the 19 teams at the last championship.

The tournament was organised by FUEN, and hosted by the Ladins and the German-speaking South Tyroleans, twice-winners of the EUROPEADA. A great difference to UEFA's EURO is that 2016 marks the first women's competition. Just as the men's teams, the women's teams are also entirely made up of members of minorities.

The EUROPEADA is a meeting of the living diversity of the long-established minorities – and that is what makes this European football tournament a special major sporting event. A key component of the EUROPEADA is a culture day, where the individual minorities present themselves and exchange ideas and experiences.

www.europeada.eu



Min
EUROPEADA
2016 ★ SÜDTIROL ★ ITALY

18. – 26.06.2016

FUSSBALLEUROPAMEISTERSCHAFT DER
AUTOCHTHONEN NATIONALEN MINDERHEITEN

CAMPIONAT EUROPEICH DE PALÊ DLES
MENDRANZES NAZIONALES AUTOCTONES

CAMPIONATO EUROPEO DI CALCIO DELLE
MINORANZE NAZIONALI AUTOCTONE

FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP OF THE
AUTOCHTHONOUS NATIONAL MINORITIES IN EUROPE



Communication

FUEN PRESIDIU

M AND SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

Loránt Vincze *President*
Hungarian Minority, Romania

Daniel Alfreider *Vice President*
Ladin Minority in South Tyrolean, Italy

Bernhard Ziesch *Vice President*
Lusatian Sorbs, Germany

Gösta Toft *Vice President*
German Minority, Denmark

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German Minority, Russia

Dieter Paul Küssner *Vice President*
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German Minority, Denmark

Susann Schenk *Secretary-General*
Lusatian Sorbs, Germany

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Editorial staff: FUEN Susann Schenk, fischertext Kiel
Translation: Alistair Tarwid
Design: visuellverstehen GmbH

FUEN Flensburg / Flensburg
Secretariat-General Schiffbrücke 41
+49 461 12855 D-24939 Flensburg

FUEN Berlin
AGDM Coordination Bundesallee 216 – 218
+49 30 186814613 D-10719 Berlin

FUEN Brussel / Bruxelles
Europe-Office Avenue Palmerston 20
+32 485 284315 B-1000 Brussel

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Institutional funding



Project funding



The publication of this brochure has been subsidised with funds from the Ministry of Science, Research and Culture of the State of Brandenburg



EUROPEADA 2016

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